

first recorded police death in 1792, there have been more than 17,200 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Over 1,700 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty over the last decade, an average of 170 deaths per year. Roughly 5 percent of officers who die are killed while taking law enforcement action in an off-duty capacity. On average, more than 62,000 law enforcement officers are assaulted annually.

The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act creates a mechanism by which qualified active-duty law enforcement officers would be permitted to travel interstate with a firearm, subject to certain limitations, provided that officers are carrying their official badges and photographic identification. An active-duty officer may carry a concealed firearm under this measure if he or she is authorized to engage in or supervise any violation of law; is authorized to use a firearm by the agency, meets agency standards to regularly use a firearm; and is not prohibited from carrying by Federal, State or local law. This measure would not interfere with any officer's right to carry a concealed firearm on private or government property while on duty or on official business.

Off-duty and retired officers should also be permitted to carry their firearms across State and other jurisdictional lines, at no cost to taxpayers, in order to better serve and protect our communities. H.R. 218 would permit qualified law enforcement officers and qualified retired law enforcement officers across the nation to carry concealed firearms in most situations. It preserves any State law that restricts concealed firearms on private property and any State law that restricts the possession of a firearm on State or local government property.

To qualify for the measure's exemptions to permit a qualified off-duty law enforcement officer to carry a concealed firearm, notwithstanding the law of the State or political subdivision of the State, he or she must have authority to use a firearm by the law enforcement agency where he or she works; not be subject to any disciplinary action; satisfy every standard of the agency to regularly use a firearm; not be prohibited by Federal law from receiving a firearm; and carry a photo identification issued by the agency. The bill preserves any State law that restricts concealed firearms on private property, and any State law that restricts the possession of a firearm on State or local government property or park.

For a retired law enforcement officer to qualify for exemption from State

laws that prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms, he or she must have retired in good standing; have been qualified by the agency to carry or use a firearm; have been employed at least fifteen years as a law enforcement officer unless forced to retire due to a service-connected disability; have a non-forfeitable right to retirement plan benefits of the law enforcement agency; meet the same State firearms training and qualifications as an active officer; not be prohibited by Federal law from receiving a firearm; and be carrying a photo identification issued by the agency. Preserved would be any State law that permits restrictions of concealed firearms on private property, as well as any State law that restricts the possession of a firearm on State or local government property or park.

Last month, during the House Judiciary Committee markup of H.R. 218, amendments were accepted to bar officers or retired police from carrying arms in other jurisdictions if they are under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicating or hallucinatory drug or substance, and to require retired police to have proof they received arms training in the previous year before being permitted to carry concealed weapons. The bill was then reported out of Committee by a vote of 23 to 9 and passed overwhelmingly by the House.

Convicted criminals often have long and exacting memories. A law enforcement officer is a target in uniform and out, active or retired, on duty or off duty. The bipartisan Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act is designed to establish national measures of uniformity and consistency to permit trained and certified on duty, off duty or retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms in most situations so that they may respond immediately to crimes across State and other jurisdictional lines, as well as to protect themselves and their families from vindictive criminals.

I urge the Senate to take up and pass the bipartisan, commonsense Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, H.R. 218, as amended and passed by the House, to make our communities safer and better to protect law enforcement officers and their families.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H. R. 218) was read the third time and passed.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2004

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 8. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a period for morning business for 60 minutes, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the final 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee; provided that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of S. 2062, the class action bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. If the distinguished leader would allow me to say a few words, and it will be a few words, as I said earlier today the role of the majority leader is extremely difficult. While I disagree with the action taken of filing the motion for cloture, I understand that. But after having said that, there have been many speeches given today. We have heard enough on this issue and we should move forward.

#### PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, tomorrow, following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the class action bill. Again, I reiterate my hope that we will make progress on the class action bill on Thursday. We are open for business. We are open for relevant amendments. We ask that those amendments come forward. If they come forward, we can debate them, we can vote on them, and we can complete the bill. We are prepared to consider the amendments and dispose of them. I encourage Members to come forward. Senators, therefore, should expect the possibility of rollcall votes tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:17 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, July 8, 2004, at 10 a.m.